

Introduced by Senator Cox

February 22, 2007

An act to amend Section 13114 of the Health and Safety Code, relating to fire alarms.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 544, as introduced, Cox. Fire alarms and safety devices.

Existing law requires the State Fire Marshal, with the advice of the State Board of Fire Services, to adopt regulations and standards to control the quality and installations of fire alarm systems and devices, as specified. Existing law makes it a misdemeanor for any person to market, distribute, offer for sale, or sell any fire alarm system or fire alarm device in this state unless the system or device has been approved and listed by the State Fire Marshal. Existing law requires the State Fire Marshal to convene a working group, as specified, to develop a process for listing fire alarms and safety devices by the State Fire Marshal, and requires implementation of the process to go into effect no later than January 1, 2008.

This bill would delete the provisions that prohibit any person from marketing, distributing, offering for sale, or selling any fire alarm system or fire alarm device in this state unless the system or device has been approved and listed by the State Fire Marshal. The bill would also delete the provisions described above relating to the working group convened by the State Fire Marshal and the implementation of the process it develops.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 13114 of the Health and Safety Code is amended to read:

13114. (a) The State Fire Marshal, with the advice of the State Board of Fire Services, shall adopt regulations and standards as he or she may determine to be necessary to control the quality and installation of fire alarm systems and fire alarm devices marketed, distributed, offered for sale, or sold in this state.

(b) No person shall market, distribute, offer for sale, or sell any fire alarm system or fire alarm device in this state unless the system or device has been approved and listed by the State Fire Marshal.

(c) (1) The State Fire Marshal shall convene a working group to address the issues specified in paragraph (2), made up of the following representatives to the extent they are willing to participate:

(A) Representatives of at least four manufacturers of fire alarm devices or systems whose products are currently listed pursuant to this section and whose names are provided to the State Fire Marshal as manufacturer representatives by the National Electrical Manufacturers Association.

(B) A fire protection engineer who is not associated with the State Fire Marshal's Office.

(C) Staff from the State Fire Marshal's Office for consultation purposes, as determined by the State Fire Marshal.

(D) Representatives of four local fire marshals with experience in building plan checking and code compliance.

(E) A representative of a nationally recognized testing laboratory.

(F) The State Fire Marshal or his or her designee.

(2) (A) Giving due consideration to public safety issues, the working group shall develop a process for listing of fire alarms and safety devices by the State Fire Marshal. Listing shall be approved upon receipt of certification of the fire alarm by a State Fire Marshal approved nationally recognized testing laboratory. All appropriate fees associated with the building materials listing application must be received by the Office of the California State Fire Marshal prior to approval.

(B) Implementation of the process developed pursuant to subparagraph (A) of paragraph (2) of subdivision (c) shall be

1 through administrative action or legislative action in the regular
2 session commencing December 4, 2006 and shall go into effect
3 no later than January 1, 2008.

4 (3) (A) The State Fire Marshal shall appoint the members of
5 the working group no later than October 1, 2006, and shall convene
6 the first meeting of the working group no later than November 1,
7 2006.

8 (B) The State Fire Marshal shall approve the revised process
9 no later than March 30, 2007.

10 (C) Nothing in this section shall preclude the State Fire Marshal
11 and members of the fire alarm safety devices from convening in
12 an ad hoc working group in advance of the effective date of this
13 statute.